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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AIT TAIPEI 0600

BT

EZ1:

~~SECRET~~ STATE 183306

EZ2:

FROM AIT WASHDC

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 183306 ACTION ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR
POSTS JUL 15:

QUOTE ~~SECRET~~ STATE 183306

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 12065:GDS 7/11/85 (B.H. READ)

TAGS: ASEC, PINR

SUBJECT: USE OF INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS TO DISCUSS
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

FOR COM FROM UNDER SECRETARY BEN READ

1. I AM INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THE USE OF OPEN
INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS BETWEEN OVERSEAS MISSIONS
AND WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS SENSITIVE OR CLASSIFIED MATTERS.
AS OVERSEAS TELEPHONE SERVICE IMPROVES AND DIRECT DIALING
BECOMES MORE COMMON, I ANTICIPATE THAT THIS PRACTICE WILL
GROW UNLESS WE UNDERTAKE URGENT AND STRINGENT MEASURES TO
REVERSE IT.

2. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PERSONALLY BRINGING TO THE
ATTENTION OF ALL OFFICERS OF AGENCIES REPRESENTED AT YOUR
POST THE SERIOUS THREAT TO US INTERESTS WHICH PRESENTLY
RESULTS FROM THE DISCUSSION OF SENSITIVE OR CLASSIFIED
MATTERS ON OPEN TELEPHONE LINES. -AS YOU KNOW, WE MUST GO
ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THESE CONVERSATIONS ARE REGULARLY
MONITORED BY LOCAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND BY THE WORLD-
WIDE INTERCEPT ACTIVITIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS
ALLIES. THE WHOLE PROCESS OF INTERCEPTING TELEPHONE
CONVERSATIONS HAS BEEN GREATLY SIMPLIFIED BY ADVANCED

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY. THE USE OF "DOUBLE TALK" AND "SANITIZATION" PROVIDES NO RPT NO SECURITY PROTECTION AGAINST THE REGULAR INTERCEPT AND ANALYSIS OF THESE CONVERSATIONS BY EXPERIENCED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE FOREIGN MONITORS.

3. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL MAKE EVERYEFFORT TO ENSURE THAT OFFICERS AT YOUR POST COMMUNICATE ON SENSITIVE OR CLASSIFIED MATTERS ONLY BY SECURE VOICE IF AVAILABLE, BY SECURE CABLE TRAFFIC, OR BY CLASSIFIED POUCH.

4. THIS MESSAGE IS ALSO BEING CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT AS PART OF-OUR EFFORTS TO TIGHTEN UP SECURITY AT THIS END. CHRISTOPHER
UNQUOTE SIGNED DEAN VANCE

BT

#3306

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